

Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC)
February 18, 2005 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
The Cornhusker Hotel, Lancaster Room 1-2-3
Lincoln, Nebraska

Lea Ann Johnson, chair, opened the meeting of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council on February 18, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Members present: Lea Ann Johnson, chair; Mary Afrank, Kathy Anderson, Dora Chen, Marcia Corr, Eric Dunning, Carolyn Edwards, Sally Hansen, Mary Jo Iwan, Barbara Jackson, Susan Kringle, Kim Madsen, Paul Matson, Betty Medinger, Ruth Miller, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Pat Nauroth, Kim Peterson, Cindy Prater, Barbara Schliesser, Derek Weimer, Carey Winkler, Carolyn Witte, Denise Wright.

Members absent: Christine Carr, Patrick Donaldson, Jolaine Edwards, Kris Elmshaeuser, Tom Fortune, Mark Hald, Ali Hettenbaugh, Chris Kline, Suzan Obermiller, Marian Price, Mary Beth Rathe, Todd Reckling, Patti Waltman, Christine Weber, Sandy Willett.

Also in attendance:

ECICC Staff: Terry Rohren, facilitator; Susan Dahm, secretary.

Technical assistants: Rae Anderson, National Child Care Information Center, Nina Baker, PTI-Nebraska; Carol Fichter, Early Childhood Training Center; Betty Lammle, Administration for Children and Families, Region VII Child Care Specialist; Mark Smith, Monroe-Meyer Institute; *HHS:* Linda Shandera; *NDE:* Pat Frost, Melody Hobson, Jeanine Huntoon, Eleanor Kirkland, Joan Luebbers.

Guests: Martha Gadberry, GBC facilitator.

i. Family Leadership Group

The family leadership group met for one hour before the meeting.

AGENDA:

1. Meeting Opening:

LeaAnn Johnson, chair, opened the meeting with words of welcome. After self-introductions by meeting participants, the meeting proceeded with several items already in process.

1.1 Approval of minutes

Motion, seconded: To approve the ECICC minutes of December 3, 2004, as submitted and provided to members in the pre-meeting packet.

- Susan Dahm advised that the date of the minutes approved in agenda item 1.1 should be corrected to read, "August 27, 2004."
- The motion was amended to approve the minutes as corrected and passed by unanimous voice vote. There were no abstentions.

1.2 Expenses Update

Susan Dahm provided information about changes in processing travel expenses and parent stipends. Reimbursement for mileage was increased to \$.405 as of January 1, 2005. Parent stipends will be paid in the bi-monthly payroll cycle.

1.3 Approval of Ground Rules

Changes to the ECICC Ground Rules were recommended by the Steering Committee and a draft was distributed to members in the pre-meeting packet. The proposed changes applied to seating arrangements during a regular meeting, time allowed for public comment, and the chair's discretion for management of the agenda.

- Motion, seconded: To approve the changes as proposed in the 1/20/05 draft. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. There were no abstentions.

1.4 Action Updates

LeaAnn reviewed activity on items proposed at the December 3, 2004 meeting:

- A meeting summary is posted on the ECICC web site within one week following a regular meeting.
- A letter was sent to Dr. Raymond, HHS, regarding registry checks but there has been no reply to date. Denise Wright asked if there could be follow up with Dr. Raymond. LeaAnn volunteered to phone him directly and ask.
- The ECICC 2004 Report to the Governor was completed and is in the process of being printing.
- Parent business cards were printed and distributed.
- Recommendations from the December meeting small group discussions are slated for discussion during the next conference call of the Steering Committee.

2. Family Story

Carey Winkler, an ECICC parent representative, introduced members to her son, Grant, who was present with her at the meeting. She showed family photos and described prenatal and birth conditions and the following diagnosis of Grant's duplication on chromosome 12, a very rare condition. Carey discussed her family's experiences with medical staff, dealing with physical congenital conditions, and the continuing health concerns and therapies for correcting physical conditions in Grant's prognosis. She also shared the positive progress that Grant has achieved. Carey discussed the need for support for parents to help deal with unexpected birth outcomes. In their situation they only became aware of the Early Development Network (EDN) after Grant was 6 months old through information Carey received as a family child care provider. Her past experiences as a para in Special Education for Lincoln Public Schools provided her with experience and knowledge to work with service providers and services coordinator, so they are providing their own services coordination. Carey related that her experiences with Grant's condition have encouraged her to become involved as a parent advocate for all families of children with disabilities. Carey answered questions and responded to comments from the group.

3. Report to the Governor

- A draft of the ECICC 2004 Report to the Governor on the Status of Early Childhood was provided to Council members in the pre-meeting packet along with a request for suggestions on content and format.
 - Terry Rohren asked that final edits be submitted to her or Susan Dahm by Wednesday, February 24, when the report will be printed and forwarded to the Governor with copies to the Legislature and state agency heads.
 - Mary A Frank suggested that a cover letter recommend continued support for young families. She noted that ECICC priorities coincide with programs slated for cuts in the federal budget.
 - It was noted that state governors are meeting in Washington DC on February 28 and that Governor Heinemann should see the ECICC report and cover letter before the meeting.
 - Rae Anderson recommended including recommendations from the NGA Task Force on School Readiness in the materials sent to the Governor. Another resource suggested was the document "Early Childhood Education in Nebraska" prepared by the Nebraska Coalition for Early Childhood Education.
 - The group discussed the timing of the upcoming governors conference and the time required to print the report.

Action:

Motion, seconded: To provide Governor Heinemann with a "quick copy" of the Report before he leaves for Washington, to include a cover letter recommending that current

budget support remain in place, and to provide supporting/supplemental information as recommended. The motion carried by voice vote.

- LeaAnn Johnson will deliver the materials to the Governor before his departure to Washington D.C.

Action:

Motion, seconded: To approve the ECICC 2004 Report to the Governor on the Status of Early Childhood as edited, and to print it and provide copies to the Governor, members of the state Legislature, and agency and department heads, and to place the report on the ECICC web site. The motion carried by voice vote. There were no abstentions.

4. Priority Discussion

- In pre-meeting correspondence, members were asked to bring a recommendation/suggestion to the meeting of a priority focus for the ECICC based on data. Terry Rohren began the discussion by asking for members' suggestions. Several members responded with suggestions. (Flip chart notes on the discussion were provided to ECICC members.)
- There was consensus that, while not based on specific data as originally proposed, a priority focus of the ECICC should be to develop credibility as an advisory body by coordinating and providing timely, comprehensive information to individuals and groups across the state and to develop ways to respond in an advisory/educative capacity on legislative issues that affect the status of early childhood.
 - The group discussed ways that the ECICC could act in an advisory/educative capacity and agreed that there was a need to develop a process to establish communication on early childhood issues with legislators, agencies, the governor, Council members, and others.
 - There was discussion that the intent should be to provide a tool for individuals and groups to learn about all sides of an issue and that such a resource would fill a unique niche.
 - There was agreement that follow up information on Council recommendations was needed.

Action:

Motion, seconded and amended: To create a legislative and communication committee to coordinate and link resources and activities, to help educate the public and all stakeholders, and to build relationships with the Governor's Office. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. There were no abstentions.

- Terry Rohren asked that members and technical assistants interested in serving on such a committee to notify her.
- Mary Afrank, Derek Weimer, Carol Fichter, Mark Smith and Terry Rohren volunteered to explore ways to coordinate and disseminate information to stakeholder groups.

5. Legislative Updates

Meeting participants were provided with copies of the Legislative bills to be discussed.

- LB 101
Barbara Schliesser briefly explained the bill regarding autism spectrum disorders. Members made comments on the status of the bill and asked for clarification on the content. Barb referred members to Rose Dymacek, NDE, for more detailed information.
- LB 511
Betty Medinger discussed how child care subsidy rates are determined and provided background on the reason for this bill. She explained the content and discussed the potential impact. Members who asked for notification on the status of the bill were referred to the Unicameral website. Subsidy rates will be not be determined until the end of March and will be posted on the HHS website. Betty said she would keep the group informed.
- LB 577

Marcia Corr explained the intent of this bill, which would expand funding for early childhood education programs and which specifies that within three years all at-risk 4-years olds would be served in an early childhood program.

– Marcia also briefly informed the group about Legislative Bills 467, 350, and 228.

- **BillWatch**

Nina Baker distributed materials about BillWatch, which tracks bills related to young children with disabilities and their families. She explained how BillWatch works and highlighted certain bills currently in process. Members provided comments and explanations on bills noted. Nina invited members to e-mail her for more information.

– Eleanor Kirkland also recommended the www.thomas.gov website as a resource for following the status of federal bills.

- **LB605**

Kim Peterson called attention to LB 605 regarding smoking in child care homes and its potential impact on family child care providers and foster care homes.

6. Public Comment

- Rae Anderson informed the group about resources she had compiled and provided a set of documents and website information for the ECICC files.
- Jeanine Huntoon announced the publication of the *Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines for Ages 3-5* and explained how copies were being distributed.
- Mary Jo Iwan announced that the 2-1-1 website was launched on February 11, 2005. The website contains information on health and human services and how to access services. The URL is: <http://www.ne211.org/>
- Eleanor Kirkland informed the Council that she is participating with a work group doing a quality assurance study of the Head Start Technical Assistance systems. Eleanor will keep the ECICC informed about the progress of the study.
- Betty Lammle recommended that members keep track of the federal welfare reauthorization bill, which includes child care subsidy.

7. Committee/Working Groups

Following lunch, members worked for two hours in small groups of the Gaps and Barriers Committee, the finance work group, and a group interested in planning the newly proposed legislative/communications committee.

8. Report Outs from Working Sessions

8.1 Family Leadership Group

Derek Weimer reported that the group is working on guidelines for parents in presenting a family story. The group also suggested developing a roster with pictures of ECICC members.

8.2 Gaps and Barriers Committee (GBC)

Denise Wright reported that the GBC recommended to the Early Childhood Outcomes workgroup (via GBC members on the workgroup) that health outcomes be included in the state outcomes being developed.

8.3 Financial Work Group

Terry Rohren reported that the group is working on a charter that will be presented to the ECICC for approval at the May meeting. Ruth Miller is slated to chair the group.

8.4 Legislative and Communication Committee Development Group

LeaAnn Johnson reported for the group, which discussed concepts proposed earlier in the meeting.

- As a first step, Carol Fichter volunteered the Early Childhood Training Center (ECTC) to set up a web page as an intermediate measure to provide links to resources on early childhood issues and legislation. The work group discussed criteria for who/what should be added to the page, which will have an introductory statement clarifying the purpose and use of the site. (The proposed sections for the web page are included in the flip chart notes provided to ECICC members.)
- LeaAnn reported that 10-12 people have expressed interest in working on the proposed committee. They will meet in a conference call before the May ECICC meeting to discuss further developments. Terry Rohren will provide support for the group.

8.5 Follow up to discussion on the Report to the Governor

LeaAnn Johnson informed the group that she had made an appointment with Loren Hill of the Governor's Office to deliver the Report and express the concerns of the ECICC before Governor Heinemann leaves for Washington D.C.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Attachment: *(distributed by mail to members and technical assistants)*

Flip Chart Notes, ECICC, February 18, 2005

- Discussion: Setting ECICC priority focus for next year
- Proposal from ECTC

Next meeting: Friday, May 13, 2005, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln NE

MEETING HANDOUTS:

- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Steering Committee, January 27, 2005.
- ✓ Roster Updates: February 18, 2005
- ✓ The Quality Child Care Act (43-2601-2625), corrected format, February 18, 2005
- ✓ ECICC Ground Rules for Meeting–approved 9/13/2002 and ECICC Ground Rules for Meeting–drafted 1/20/2005
- ✓ Legislative Bills (LB): LB 577-Statement of Intent, LB 101, LB 511, LB 577,
- ✓ Documents re BillWatch–BillWatch information brochure, BillTracker Home page, example of BillWatch e-mail message
- ✓ Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration Office Update
- ✓ E-mail from Barbara Schliesser: A thank you from Kelly Worthington, OSEP, to Linda Shandera for CAPTA presentation
- ✓ Washington Update, December 1, 2004: “Summary of Changes Made to Part C by IDEA Reauthorization of 2004”
- ✓ National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC): “National and State Efforts to Create Public Engagement to Support High-Quality Early Care and Education”
- ✓ Unicameral Update, January 5-7, 2005: “2005 State Senators”